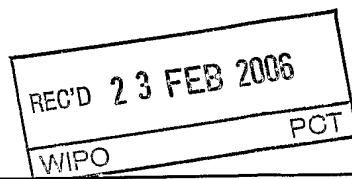


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty) (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference SAP-709-PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/012040	International filing date (day/month/year) 17.08.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 21.01.2004
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int.Cl. <i>C01F11/22 (2006.01), B01D9/02 (2006.01), C02F1/58 (2006.01)</i>		
Applicant Morita Chemical Industries Co., Ltd.		

1.	This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3.	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a total of <u>3</u> sheets, as follows: <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. </div> </div> b. <input type="checkbox"/> a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application </div>

Date of submission of the demand 17.11.2005	Date of completion of this report 25.01.2006	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP Japan Patent Office 3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan	Authorized officer	4G 9266
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/012040

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4(a))
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))

2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-29 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- Nos. 3-6 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- Nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- Nos.* 1, 7, 9-13 received by this Authority on 17.11.2005
- Nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets/figs 1-2 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets/figs * _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets/figs * _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☒ the claims, Nos. 2, 8 _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

PCT/JP2004/012040

NO

CLAIMS

1. (amended) A method for producing calcium fluoride, said method comprising introducing a fluoride-containing effluent together with an aqueous calcium chloride solution into a reaction system under an acidic condition with hydrochloric acid of pH 2 or lower to deposit calcium fluoride particles of a comparatively large size with a purity of 98% or higher, and then recovering said particles.

2. (Cancelled)

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the fluoride-containing effluent and/or the aqueous calcium chloride solution contain hydrochloric acid, or an aqueous hydrochloric acid solution is separately introduced continuously or intermittently into the reaction system.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is conducted at room temperature or from 30 to 90°C.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the calcium fluoride product has an average particle size of 5 to 300 μm .

6. A reuse method comprising reacting a part or all of hydrochloric acid, which is contained in the solution after recovery of calcium fluoride formed by the reaction, with a calcium salt such as calcium hydroxide, calcium oxide and calcium carbonate to form calcium chloride, and using the formed aqueous calcium chloride solution as the aqueous calcium chloride solution according to claim 1.

7. (amended) A method for producing calcium fluoride, said method comprising introducing a hydrofluoric acid-containing effluent together with an aqueous calcium chloride solution into a reaction system under an acidic condition with hydrochloric acid of pH 2 or lower to deposit calcium fluoride particles of a comparatively large size with a purity of 98% or higher, and then recovering said particles.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the hydrofluoric acid-containing effluent and/or the aqueous calcium chloride solution contain hydrochloric acid, or an aqueous hydrochloric acid solution is separately introduced continuously or intermittently into the reaction system.

10. (amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the reaction is conducted at room temperature or from 30 to 90°C.

11. (amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the calcium fluoride product has an average particle size of 5 to 300 μm .

12. (amended) A reuse method comprising reacting a part or all of hydrochloric acid, which is contained in the solution after recovery of calcium fluoride formed by the reaction, with a calcium salt such as calcium hydroxide, calcium oxide and calcium carbonate to form calcium chloride, and using the formed aqueous calcium chloride solution as the aqueous calcium chloride solution according to claim 6.

13. (amended) A method for recycling calcium fluoride, characterized in that the calcium fluoride recovered by the method according to claim 1 or 6 is supplied as a raw material for producing hydrogen fluoride.